GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5817
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
PM VISIT TO IRAN
C. SREENIVAASAN;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of issues discussed by our Prime Minister with Iranian leaders during his recent visit over there;

(b) the outcome thereof;

(c) the agreements signed on the occasion; and

(d) the boost to the Indo-Iranian economic relations as a result of the visit?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFEAIRS (SHRI U .V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a)-(b) Prime Minister paid an official visit to Iran, a country with which India shares deep historical ties and civilisational and cultural affinities, from 10-13 April, 2001. During PM`s visit both sides discussed issues relating to cooperation on bilateral, regional and international matters. Both sides reaffirrned their commitment to the strengthening and deepening of consultations and to enhancing coordination on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern.

PM and President Khatami emphasised the need to enhance trade ties, economic and technical cooperation and cultural contacts. They emphasised the need to promote tourism and decided that India would hold an `India-Week` in Iran and correspondingly Iran would hold an `Iran-Week` in India. Both sides recognised the importance of preservation of peace, security and stability in the region and agreed to enhance mutual cooperation for safeguarding peace and stability in the region which was witnessing the rise of extremist forces, terrorism and enhanced flows of illicit drugs. In their discussions on international matters, the two leaders emphasised equality between nations and governments.

(c)-(d) PM and President Khatami of Iran signed the `Tehran Declaration`, which ernbodies their vision of cooperation based on shared concerns, common aspirations and shared complementarities for the benefit of the two peoples and of the region and world at large. In addition, agreements on
(i) Trade and Economic Cooperation and
(ii) Customs Cooperation and MOUs on
(iii) Infonnation Technology
(iv) Cooperation in the field of Energy
(v) Cooperation in the field of Power (conventional and non-conventional sources) and
(vi) Technical Cooperation were also signed. The agreements and MOU signed during the visit will establish a structural framework for boosting trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. In order to encourage trade and economic relations between India and Iran. PM expressed India`s willingness to offer a line of credit of US $200 million particularly for infrastructure projects in Iran on terms and conditions to be mutually decided upon.